



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Nation curtails discussions with gaming consultant citing re-evaluation of needs since passage of TGE legislation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation has ended discussions with a gaming development company, citing a reconsideration of its needs.

On Oct. 19, Navajo Nation Controller Mark Grant wrote to the attorney for Basha & De Rito Hospitality to inform him that following several negotiation meetings the Navajo Nation is rejecting the company's offer.

"Since the legislation to create the Tribal Gaming Enterprise was approved, we have re-evaluated our priorities and our gaming development needs," Mr. Grant wrote to Eric Dahlstrom, an attorney with the law firm of Rothstein, Donatelli, Hughes, Dahlstrom & Schoenburg. "As a result, please consider this letter a rejection of the offer. While we appreciate your client's willingness and enthusiasm to work with the Nation, we do not anticipate using Basha & De Rito Hospitality for the development of gaming operations within the Navajo Nation."

Last month, the Navajo Nation announced it was opening negotiations with the company to provide gaming development consulting services. Had negotiations been successful, it would have been the first to consult on Navajo gaming projects.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., said he remains committed to ensure casinos are developed on the Navajo Nation.

"It's been a meticulous process but casinos are expected to generate up to \$100 million in new revenue for the Nation's coffers, create hundreds of new jobs, increase tourism and promote ancillary business," he said.

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